

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3397
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Research on Indian Origin Germplasm
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of central institutes/organizations conducting research in conservation and utilization of Indian origin/developed germplasm;
- (b) whether there have been cases of Indian-origin/developed germplasm data being diverted for profits of certain companies in India or abroad and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the safeguards/steps taken by the Government to protect the Indian-origin Germplasm from getting into the hands of MNCs/Private commercial entities illegally?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) Bureaux under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), viz., National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi; National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal, Haryana; National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh; National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM), Mau, Uttar Pradesh and National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru, Karnataka are collecting diverse germplasm of Indian origin of crops, animals, fish, microbes and insects in collaboration with ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities for conservation. These Bureaux and national active germplasm sites are operating as Gene Banks in different states and act as a germplasm custodian. The available indigenous/ developed germplasm in the gene banks is regularly characterized and evaluated at these Bureaux and specific institutes. The identified accessions (donor resource) are provided to specific breeders for utilizing in the breeding / research programmes.

(b) Prior to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1993, the data on origin/developed germplasm were freely available. Since then, the data-base of germplasm is exchanged following the extant national guidelines for safeguarding germplasm, and sharing of germplasm & data.

(c) To safeguard the Indian origin germplasm, Government of India (GOI), in compliance with international treaties, established National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to govern the regulations of access to the Indian germplasm by non-Indian persons or entities. The Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), GOI, protect the traditional crop varieties including farmers' varieties and extant notified varieties. Further, Bureaux have developed Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) and Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) in consultation with NBA for accessing biological resources for commercial utilization by Government organizations/entities.
